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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0823
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 4443
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI IMMEDIATE 0227
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE IMMEDIATE 3181
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE 9531
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE 3328
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001081

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/01/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [RU](#) [GG](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: GGTF01: ITALY URGES RUSSIA NOT TO RECOGNIZE SOUTH
OSSETIA AND ABKHAZIA

REF: STATE 90978

Classified By: Gabriel Escobar, Acting Political Minister Counselor, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Marco Clemente, MFA Russia Office Director told Poloff that Italy would "under no circumstances" recognize the independence of South Ossetia or Abkhazia. Clemente added that Italy would maintain a common Euro-Atlantic position on the conflict and would continue to support the efforts of the French EU presidency in moving a UNSCR forward.

[1](#)2. (C) The same day, press reported that Italian FM Frattini called Russian FM Lavrov to urge Russian compliance with the plan proposed by French President Sarkozy. During that call Frattini urged Lavrov to resist domestic political pressure to recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia.
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